



March 26, 2021

To Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Dr. Christina Morrissey DNP APRN NP-C and I am writing to you on behalf of the Connecticut APRN Society in support of S.B. No. 1070 (RAISED) AN ACT ALLOWING ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS TO ISSUE HOME HEALTH ORDERS.

The Cares Act of 2020 permanently allowed for APRNs and Physicians Assistants to certify homecare orders. This has been extended by executive order by Governor Lamont. Updates to this statute will bring Connecticut into alignment with federal law and prevent delays in services for the residents of Connecticut.

The permanent allowance of APRNs and Physician Assistants to sign homecare orders will reduce the expense of unnecessary visits to a healthcare provider that is not treating the patient due to outdated regulations.

In my experience as a homecare nurse previously from 2008-2014, I repeatedly saw delays in the start of nursing care due to requirements that the patient to see a physician who was able to sign orders. This was because the patient's PCP was not able to sign homecare orders because of outdated statutes. On more than one occasion, the delay of homecare nurses being able to see the patient resulted in rehospitalization. I saw this happen related to untreated wounds as well as exacerbations of chronic illnesses including heart failure.

This also caused repeated lapses in care when I would call the physician that was signing the homecare orders who would then tell me that she or he was unfamiliar with the patient and to call the APRN who was treating the patient in a completely different office. There were unnecessary delays in care due to lack of clarify regarding who was managing the patient's care.

Allowance of APRNs and Physicians Assistants to sign homecare orders will prevent delays in care to the patients of Connecticut, will reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, and bring Connecticut into alignment with current standards of practice.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Christina Morrissey DNP, APRN, NP-C
Health Policy Co-Chair
Connecticut APRN Society
Morrissey.Christina@yahoo.com